



RISING OTTAWA RIVER WATER LEVELS

OTTAWA/GATINEAU, Sunday April 29, 2018 — The Ottawa River Regulating Committee would like to inform watershed residents that levels and flows along the Ottawa River have begun increasing with the onset of the spring freshet period. It cautions that during this period water levels could rise rapidly at times. However, based on the current snowpack and the weather forecast, levels and flows are expected to remain within the normal range of fluctuations associated with this period of the year.

River Conditions Forecast / Flooding Risk: Spring runoff in the northern and central portions of the Ottawa River basin is expected to continue to increase due to forecast warm temperatures and recent precipitation. The Regulating Committee cautions residents along the shores of the Ottawa River, from Mattawa down to the Montreal region, of the possibility of minor flooding in low-lying areas in the coming weeks. Low-lying areas are those that are flooded regularly during the spring freshet period.

Reservoir Regulation Strategy: The principal storage reservoirs in the northern part of the watershed are expected to contain the majority of the increased runoff in these areas. However, dams located in the central and southern portions of the basin are essentially “run of the river” with no significant storage capacity. As such, they cannot significantly reduce the flows and levels associated with increased spring runoff. During this critical freshet period, the Regulating Committee will take all possible actions to limit the amount of flooding and will continuously monitor conditions at all points along the river.

Further bulletins will be issued if flood risks increase.

The Ottawa River Regulating Committee works closely at all times with provincial agencies responsible for issuing flood related messages. In Ontario, Conservation Authorities and District Offices of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry issue flood related messages and information to municipalities and other key agencies involved in flood preparedness and response. Current flood related messages can be viewed on-line on the individual conservation authority websites and on the provincial flood webpage: <https://www.ontario.ca/flooding>. In Quebec, the Centre des opérations gouvernementales du Québec and the Sécurité civile collaborate with municipalities to protect residents. Monitoring of flood conditions can be viewed at <https://geoegl.msp.gouv.qc.ca/adnv2>.

If you think that your property may be at risk of flooding, **please contact your municipality.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website: Current and forecast conditions on the Ottawa River along with conditions at the major reservoirs in the system may be obtained by consulting our website. A general four-day forecast is provided at key locations within the basin during the spring freshet period.

www.ottawariver.ca (English)

www.rivieredesoutaouais.ca (French)

Telephone: The river conditions forecast and information on current river levels may be obtained for the following locations: Lake Timiskaming, Mattawa, Pembroke, Lake Coulonge, Chats Lake, Ottawa (Britannia), Gatineau (Hull wharf), Grenville and Maniwaki, by calling the following numbers:

Ottawa-Gatineau

(613) 995-3443 English

(613) 995-3455 French

Outside the Ottawa-Gatineau
region

1-800-778-1246 English

1-800-778-1243 French

Twitter : Follow us to be notified when news releases are issued, when we begin daily updates or the general four-day forecasts on our website, or when special bulletins are posted on our website.

www.twitter.com/ORRPB (English)

www.twitter.com/CPRRO (French)

The Ottawa River Regulating Committee consists of the following agencies that are responsible for the integrated flow management of the principal reservoirs within the Ottawa River watershed: Hydro-Québec, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques du Québec, Ontario Power Generation, and Public Services and Procurement Canada. The Regulating Committee issues a news release when the spring freshet season is starting on the Ottawa River and when it anticipates that river conditions on the main stem of the Ottawa River (between Lake Timiskaming outlet down to the Montreal region) could exceed significant flood levels.

For additional information, please contact Manon Lalonde (613) 996-8639 of the Ottawa River Regulation Secretariat, or write to secretariat@ottawariver.ca (English) or to bureau@ottawariver.ca (French).

Ottawa River Regulating Committee